

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04752 281045Z

12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 PM-01 INR-05 L-01 PRS-01 SP-02

MMO-01 /032 W

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R 280735Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6356

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4752

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LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS MMOL MARR TW

SUBJECT: CCK AND TAINAN AIRBASES

1.DURING VISIT TO SOUTH TAIWAN, LAKE AND LEVIN CALLED  
ON COMMANDERS OF CCK AND TAINAN AIRBASES. FOLLOWING  
ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.

2. CCK AIRBASE: AT CCK AIRBASE, TOTAL USAF PERSONNEL  
NOW NUMBER ABOUT 500 AND WILL BE DOWN TO ABOUT 400  
WITHIN TWO WEEKS. PLANS ARE TO REACH AN AUTHORIZED LEVEL  
OF 304 BY THIS FALL. CCK BASE COMMANDER SEES HIS FUTURE  
TASK AS FURTHER REDUCTION OF THIS AUTHORIZED LEVEL. HE  
BELIEVES THAT IF URGENCY REQUIRED, ENTIRE US PRESENCE AT  
CCK COULD BE REDUCED TO APPROXIMATELY NINE TECHNICAL  
REPS BY AROUND DECEMBER, PROVIDED WRM WAS FILLED TO 100 PERCENT  
CAPACITY AND MAINTENANCE FUNCTION CONTRACTED OUT. REPS  
WOULD OVERSEE CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE. IN TERMS OF COST  
EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY, HE BELIEVES REDUCTION OF  
US PRESENCE TO SUCH A LEVEL SHOULD BE PHASED OVER PERIOD  
OF 12-18 MONTHS.

3. WITHDRAWALS FROM CCK ARE APPARENTLY NOT CREATING  
ANY UNDUE ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS IN TAICHUNG AREA. HEAVIEST  
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 04752 281045Z

IMPACT HAS BEEN ON HOUSING AND ESTABLISHMENTS CATERING

TO US SERVICEMEN. WHILE SOME SKILLS NOT READILY TRANSFERABLE, GENERAL UPSWING IN ECONOMY HAS HAD OFFSETTING EFFECT.

4. TAINAN AIRBASE: TOTAL US PRESENCE AT TAINAN IS 128. PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATION IS DET 9 OF THE AIR FORCE LOGISTICS COMMAND/AIR FORCE CONTRACT MAINTENANCE CENTER (AFCMC) WITH 46 PERSONNEL. DET 9 MONITORS USG CONTRACTS WITH AIR ASIA FOR AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. APPROXIMATELY 30 ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR DET 9 OPERATIONS.

5. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS, DETACHMENT TANGO (28 PERSONNEL) IS STILL IN PLACE AND WITHOUT DEPARTURE PLANS. DOD MESSAGE LAST MONTH ON TANGO HAS BEEN LOCALLY INTERPRETED AS ENDING P-3 FLIGHTS TO TAINAN, BUT NOT AFFECTING STATUS OF TANGO. DETACHMENT'S SOLE FUNCTION IS TO SERVICE US MILITARY FLIGHTS INTO TAINAN. EVEN IN ABSENCE P-3 FLIGHTS, THESE TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 145 PER MONTH, OF WHICH 60 PERCENT ARE IN SUPPORT OF AFCMC ACTIVITIES. IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE DET 9 COMMANDER (RANKING OFFICER AT TAINAN BASE) THAT TANGO'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE WAS SOMETHING OF A SHOCK AND THAT ITS DAYS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. IT WAS ADDITIONALLY STRESSED THAT SO HIGH A LEVEL OF OPERATIONAL USE OF TAINAN BY US AIRCRAFT IS INCONSISTENT WITH DEACTIVATED STATUS OF BASE. DET 9 COMMANDER AND AIR ASIA EXECUTIVES AGREED THAT IN ABSENCE TANGO, US FLIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH AIR ASIA CONTRACT COULD BE HANDLED BY EITHER CAF OR AIR ASIA ON CONTRACTOR BASIS.

6. COMMANDER DET 9, AFCMC, HAS SMALL UNITS STATIONED AT PINGTUNG (13 MEN) AND TAICHUNG (11 MEN) TO OVERSEE USAF CONTRACTS PERFORMED BY CAF. UNLESS ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS FORTHCOMING, PINGTUNG OPERATION IS SCHEDULED TO CLOSE IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER THIS YEAR. TAICHUNG OPERATION SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE FOR 18-24 MONTHS UNDER CURRENT CONTRACTS.

7. WRM: STORAGE OF WRM MATERIAL IS UNDERWAY AT CCK, TAINAN AND CHIA-I. MUNITIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING KITS  
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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 04752 281045Z

ARE ARRIVING FROM THAILAND AND US. CCK AUTHORIZATION IS MORE THAN 60 PERCENT SATISFIED. TAINAN AND CHIA-I ARE ABOUT 45 PERCENT COMPLETED. ALL SITES WILL BE FULL BY DECEMBER AT CURRENT RATE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE COORDINATE WITH DOD ON MESSAGE WHICH UNEQUIVOCALLY ORDERS COMPLETE REMOVAL OF DETACHMENT TANGO AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. DEPARTMENT

MAY ALSO WISH TO CHECK WITH DOD AND NSC AS TO WHEN AND  
HOW ACTUAL SHIPMENT OF WRM MATERIAL AUTHORIZED. AS FAR AS CAN  
BE DETERMINED, WRM SHIPMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED.  
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